

# CGS NEWS

Parables and Typologies | Meeting Christ in Prayer Adult Prayer Groups

## ORDINARY TIME

### Level I Lessons

- + Adoration of the Magi
- + The Mustard Seed
- + The Precious Pearl
- + The Good Shepherd
- + The Found Sheep

### Level II Lessons

- + The Flight into Egypt
- + Presentation in the Temple
- + The Synthesis of the Infancy Narratives
- + The Ten Bridesmaids
- + Parables of the Pearl, Mustard Seed, and Insistent Friend

### Level III Lessons

- + The First Creation Story
- + The Second Creation Story
- + The Creation Typology
- + Sin and the Sin Typology
- + Begin study of Exodus

Please send your child with their Bible!



## Parables and Typologies

This year our time together before the beginning of Lent is not rushed like it has been in recent years. We are blessed with five weeks of class prior to Lent, which gives us ample time to dive into scripture in each level.

### *Unraveling Parables in Level I and II*

Parables are an important piece of how we teach in CGS for a couple of reasons. The first is practical: parables are short. Jesus (or the gospel authors editing him) often presented his teaching in child-sized nuggets. These nuggets were accessible to both the educated elite and uneducated poor of Jesus's time. Thankfully, they also work well with children today!

**Ash Wednesday is March 1st**



## Meeting Christ in Prayer Adult Groups

The next *Meeting Christ in Prayer* small group meets February 5 – March 26 from 10:15 am – 11:15 am in the Ignatius Center next to church – while your children are in faith formation. Refreshments will be served each week. Register at [www.stpeterscatholic.org](http://www.stpeterscatholic.org) Click Education tab, Adult Education, then Meeting Christ in Prayer to access Sign Up Genius.

You have probably heard Fr. John or me speak of the *Spiritual Exercises of St. Ignatius. Meeting Christ in Prayer* is based on the Spiritual Exercises. Many of you chose St. Peter parish because of your interest in Jesuit Spirituality and MCIP is a way to learn more about it.

When Jesus walks with us and is our guide, Pope Francis tells us, we will keep discovering the deepest truth that makes us free and gives us life. The grace is already given to us to be discovered and embraced. Please consider this prayer opportunity while your child is in faith formation.

God Bless you,  
Fr. Jim Shea, S.J.

Jesus's parables touch on many subjects, but for CGS we break them into two groups: kingdom parables and moral parables. Kingdom parables are stories that talk about God's kingdom and help us to better wrestle with the mystery of who God is. Included in these are the Good Shepherd, the Found Sheep, the Precious Pearl, the Leaven, the Hidden Treasure, the Mustard Seed, and the Growing Seed. These depictions of God's kingdom shape a child's image of God as a loving and nurturing caretaker. In the early elementary years the formation of a healthy image of God is a crucial to life-giving adult faith.

The moral parables include stories like the Good Samaritan and the Forgiving Father (Prodigal Son). We present these to the students in Level II because 7 to 9 year olds are especially sensitive to learning about morality, what's right and wrong. The moral parables expand the child's image of God from nurturing caretaker to merciful father. If we do our job well, the children will not see God as a God who favors the faithful, but as a God who looks lovingly at all humanity no matter its flaws.

### *Bible Study and Typologies in Level III*

What the heck is a typology? A typology is a study of the symbols or "types" found in a text. In the mid-20th Century, it was popular for biblical scholars to look at broad Old Testament symbols and then follow their meaning into the New Testament. The "New fulfills the Old", as they liked to say.

In Level III, the students study five typologies: Creation, Sin, the Flood, Abraham, and Exodus. This January and February our students will begin by looking at creation. Specifically, they'll read and study the two creation stories in Genesis (yes, there are two: Genesis 1:1-2:4 and Genesis 2:5-25). Studying Adam and Eve always leads to a conversation about sin. What was there really an apple? Who tempted who? Is Satan real? These conversations inevitably lead into the next typology - sin.

For each typology work there is a material that connects it to the New Testament and then further to the Parousia. With sin, for instance, the students see how Jesus is the new Adam, and how baptism is our door into His redeeming grace and forgiveness of sin. Adam is flawed humanity, Jesus is humanity perfected, and we are transformed from Adam to Jesus through baptism - that's a typology!